LEVEL ONE

Central China Record.

PUBLISHED BY THE
CENTRAL CHINA MISSION OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Vol. 7. No. 2. NANKING. February, 1904.

According to your faith be it unto you.

Prayer-cycle of our Mission. 1 Sam. 12:23.

MONDAY, CHINKIANG. THURSDAY, KIUKIANG.
TUESDAY, NANKING. FRIDAY, NANCHANG.
WEDNESDAY, WUHU. SATURDAY, CHIENCHANG.
SUNDAY, THE ENTIRE MISSION.

Annual Meeting Number.

Traveling under Difficulties.

If any further evidence or demonstration were needed, upon this occasion it was furnished sufficient to prove that the dead of winter is not the most convenient time to hold our Annual Meeting. Follow the fortunes of two members of the Mission to and from the meeting and you will see for yourself.

Bros. Longden and James left Chinkiang on Friday night expecting to be in Kiukiang in time to begin work on the Redistribution, Monday morning. On Saturday afternoon, between Wuhu and Tatung the steamer ran against the bank and broke three blades off of one propellor. Anchored over night. Sunday morning on up to Tatung, thence return to Wuhu. Fortunately arrived in time to take that day's up steamer on another line. A blinding snow-storm set in so that the pilots cannot see a ship's length, and cannot distinguish land from water, and are soon compelled to anchor until daylight again. Monday is a good day for travel, and we make good speed, but night comes on, and, because of the snow, again we are anchored for the night, and do not reach Kiukiang until the middle of Tuesday morning, two days late.

After the meeting has closed follow us back. Leaving Kiukiang Wednesday noon we should have arrived in Chinkiang on Thursday afternoon. But at this time of the year the river is low, and five miles below Kiukiang we ran aground. There we remained as firmly as if rooted, more than two days. Bishop Moore and his party, and several other members of the Mission were also on board. When at last we were pulled off it was found that one propellor was broken, and the captain would not take passengers.

Returning to Kiukiang we had to wait there for the next day's steamer. Due in Chinkiang on Thursday evening, we did not arrive until Sunday evening. Thus three more days were lost, making five days in all lost on this trip.

Not often has such an extreme case occurred, but often have delays of one, two or three days been experienced by persons traveling to and from these meetings held during time of low water, and snow season. Then, too, the weather is so cold that considerable suffering has to be endured in travel, and in long meetings in poorly heated rooms. It is much more difficult for both hosts and guests. Anytime from the middle of September to the middle of December would suit this Mission much better than later. Only the most pressing necessities should compel us to have another Annual Meeting at this time of the year.

E. J.

The Annual Meeting.

The date appointed for the opening of the 31st Annual Meeting of the Central China Mission was January 20th, 1904. Difficulties of travel, much work, and lack of connections made it impossible for Bishop Moore to reach Kiukiang from West China at the appointed time. A message of inquiry having been despatched to Ichang, an answer was returned by the Bishop himself, who happened to be waiting at that place for a boat to take him to Hankow. In accordance with the telegram, the first session of the conference was held Wednesday, January 20th, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Carl F. Kupfer presiding. In answer to roll call, thirty-seven members responded. The election of officers resulted as follows:—

English Secretary.
FREDERICK G. HENKE.
EDWARD JAMES, *Ass't.*

Chinese Secretary.
CHOU TENG-YING.
CHIANG MENG-CHI, *Ass't.*

Statistical Secretaries.
J. F. WILSON.
T'SÜ T'SIN-CH'EN.

Treasurer.
A. J. BOWEN.

Ten standing committees were appointed, besides a special committee to draft a Constitution for a Home Missionary Society.

Bishop Moore, with his wife and son Julian, arrived at Kiukiang on Saturday morning, January 23rd. There was great rejoicing. We have all learned to love the Bishop for his warm heart, unfailing kindness, and sincere desire for the best of the church in all his administration. It was, moreover, a great pleasure to all of us, to have Mrs. Moore and their son with us.

Question XIII.

Scarcely had the Bishop taken his breakfast, when he called a session of conference. Dr. C. F. Kupfer was appointed interpreter, and Hu Ch'i-ping assistant. During this Annual Meeting great emphasis was placed on Question XIII. of the regular conference questions:—Was the character of each preacher examined? In the year 1902, at the Annual Meeting held at Kuling, the Mission adopted a Uniform Basis of Administration. The policy was the necessary outcome of circumstances prevalent at that time, and is as follows:—

1. No new appointment to be opened without first having been inspected and approved by the Presiding Elder of the District and the Missionary in Charge, as to its need of our labors and the prospect of their success.

2. No appointment to be taken up that cannot be visited for services by the responsible pastor at least once every month; all circuits so be arranged with reference to tuch visitation.

3. No enrollment to be made by any but the pastor; and such enrollment to be confined to probationers, full members, and baptized children. Moreover no probationer to be received, who lives at such distance that he cannot be properly looked after by the pastor in charge.

4. No valuable consideration of any name or kind whatsoever shall be required or accepted as a condition of enrollment; and no certificate of enrollment shall be issued.

5. No gospel-hall or church-house secured by unauthorized persons to be accepted.

6. Self-support to be kept steadily in view, and our people instructed therein, reminding them of their vow when they entered the church.

7. No missionary or native preacher or helper to take any part in litigation, except by approval of the Presiding Elder and the Missionary in Charge.

8. While extending to any in polgyamous relation religious instruction, nevertheless to observe faithfully the law of the church, excluding such from membership, the sacraments to be confined wholly to members and baptized probationers.

9. The Presiding Elder at every visitation to examine carefully and thoroughly the financial and membership records; to suffer no land to be bought in any questionoble way; and to secure the study and enforcement of ¶¶ 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of our General Rules.

Investigation Committee.

During this present Annual Meeting a Committee of Investigation which had been appointed because of certain current reports concerning some of our native preachers, reported in these words:—

"We are profoundly convinced that matters of such character which occurred in years gone by, before the Mission had adopted the present decided policy in relation to such things, should not now be considered a basis of charges against any member of our Mission." This was adopted.

Reinforcements.

On Monday morning, Rev. Spencer Lewis, Mrs. Lewis, and Mrs. Hall, our reinforcements from West China, were present, having reached Kiukiang Sunday evening. They were introduced to, and heartily welcomed by the conference. Brother Lewis has come down as a member of the "Mandarin Bible Revision Committee," and has been appointed Superintendent of the Mission. Mrs. Hall takes the position of Superintendent Nurse in the Nanking Hospital, which has been recently vacated by the marriage of Miss Hanzlik to Mr. Thomas Wright.

Division of the Mission.

The Question of the *Division of the Mission* was considered immediately after the reading of the minutes, on Tuesday morning. After a season of prayer, a vote was

CENTRAL CHINA RECORD.

THE RECORD is published monthly, in Nanking, by the Central China Mission, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rates including postage :—

In China, 30c. per annum, Mex.
Foreign, 30c. ,, ,, Gold.
Ten copies to one address, $2.00.

EDITORS.

Chinkiang, ... *Edward James.*
Kiukiang, ... *F. G. Henke.*
Nanchang, ... *R. E. Maclean.*
Wuhu, ... *H. F. Rowe.*

Advertising Editor,
John F. Wilson,
Kiukiang.

Managing Editor,
Wilbur F. Wilson,
Nanking.

taken by ayes and nays, which resulted in twenty-eight for and thirty-four against division. The enabling act of the General Conference of 1900 expires with this year. Inasmuch as it seems impossible to secure a two-thirds majority for division under prevailing circumstances, a most appropriate resolution was presented by Dr. R. C. Beebe and unanimously adopted: "Resolved that we petition the General Conference convening at Los Angeles in May, 1904, to grant an enabling act, allowing the Central China Mission to become an annual conference during the next quadrennium."

F. G. H.

Appointment of Foreign Missionaries.

Spencer Lewis :—Superintendent, and Member of Mandarin Bible Revision Committee. P. O. Nanking, China.

Wilbur C. Longden:—Presiding Elder of Chinkiang District. P. O. Chinkiang.

Harry F. Rowe :—Presiding Elder of Nanking District and Dean of Fowler School of Theology. P. O. Nanking.

Don W. Nichols :—At home on furlough. Address No. 410 N. 4th. Str. Louisiana, Mo.

Wilbur F. Wilson :—North Nanking Circuit and Professor of English in Nanking University. P. O. Nanking.

George A. Stuart :—President of Nanking University and Dean of College of Medicine. P. O. Nanking.

Arthur J. Bowen :—Vice president of Nanking University and Dean of College of Liberal Arts. P. O. Neponset, Ill.

Robert C. Beebe:—Superintendent of Philander Smith Memorial Hospital. P. O. Nanking.

Mrs. Christiana W. Hall :—Superintending Nurse of Philander Smith Memorial Hospital. P. O. Nanking.

Robert E. Maclean :—Presiding Elder of Wuhu District. P. O. Wuhu.

Edgerton H. Hart :—Superintendent of Wuhu General Hospital. P. O. Wuhu.

Carl F. Kupfer :—President of William Nast College and Pastor of College Chapel. P. O. Kiukiang.

Frederick G. Henke :—Missionary of Kiukiang District; Vice-president of William Nast College; Hwa-shan-tang (street chapel). P. O. Kiukiang.

Mrs. L. M. Walley :—Matron of William Nast College, and Teacher of English. P. O. Kiukiang.

John F. Wilson:—Presiding Elder of Central Kiangsi District. P. O. Nanchang.

Milton R. Charles:—Medical work at Nanchang. P. O. Nanchang.

Edward James:—Presiding Elder of South-east Kiangsi. P. O. Nanchang.

John R. Trindle:—Student of the Language. P. O. Nanking until August 1st.

F. G. H.

Furloughs.

By the time this comes into the hands of our readers, Brother D. W. Nichols and family will be on their way home. Brother Nichols has been a member of this Mission since 1887, and is returning to the United States for the second time on furlough. The following resolution was adopted in his behalf:

"Whereas, Brother D. W. Nichols has been eminently successful in securing the very eligible and valuable Central Church property in Nanking, and in making the first payments thereon, and whereas he is about to go to the United States on furlough; therefore, resolved that he be requested and authorized to solicit special gifts to liquidate the remaining indebtedness thereon."

Brother A. J. Bowen and family will return for the first time on furlough sometime during this next summer. They have been out a full term of years. Their home address will be Neponset, Ill.

Brother W. C. Longden will shortly leave for the United States. He expects to remain there during the summer, and bring his family out with him in the fall.

F. G. H.

A Bit of History.

During the past eighteen years, our church of Central China has passed through three distinct stages. First from 1885 to 1895, the people considered it a disgrace to belong to the Christian church. They looked upon the preachers as traitors who sold their government. With such feelings among the people, respectable persons who came to our chapels were very few. Those who came were, as a rule, persons who had no employment and expected help from the church; and even those blushed with shame when they were seen with us. During this period not more than two or three out of one hundred who joined our church, from Chinkiang to Kiukiang, were converted.

The second period was from 1896 to 1901. During these years there came a sudden change among the people. This was, we believe brought about by three causes. 1. The China—Japan war. 2. The Emperor's reform measures. 3. The uprising in 1900. All these events have persuaded the people of the superiority of the foreigner's religion, education, and power. Hence the people came in crowds, rushing to enter the church, like a stream rushing vehemently down a mountain gorge.

The last period, the past two years, has been apparently retrograde and the zeal of some has almost reached zero. The measures adopted by the conference in 1902, prohibiting all who did not show fruits of repentance, from being received into the church, gave a check to this rush. This was much the same as in the days when our Lord told the people that He was the bread of life,

and many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him. Since that time, we have gathered out the good and cast away the bad. Thus on the Kiukiang district, after this separation, about ten out of a hundred have remained. Viewed from without, it looks as if the church had lost; but inwardly she has gained. The people have learned that the religion of Jesus is a religion of repentance and salvation. The church is no longer despised, nor are people ashamed to belong to it; but they stand outside because they feel that they cannot come up to the requirements of Christianity.

NIEH CHEN-YIH.

Presiding Elder, Kiukiang District.

Prosperity of Nanking.

Rev. A. J. Bowen in his report on Nanking University writes:

Since the last report concerning Nanking University was made, several significant changes in outside conditions have taken place. The Shanghai-Nanking Railway has become more than possible or probable. I think we may safely say it is a certainty. And not only so but it seems equally certain that the railway will soon extend through Anhuei to Kai Fen-fu thus opening an immense territory easily accessible.

Moreover the Christian Mission is rapidly extending its educational work, putting into its present plant not less than $20,000 gold. Not only so, but they are pushing out into the surrounding country with their other lines of work. The Presbyterian Mission is also occupying the adjacent districts and is putting $12,000 gold into a Union Theological School. We mention these facts, not because of any feeling that our sister missions are encroaching on "our" territory: we rejoice sincerely that they are able to advance. We simply wish to emphasize the necessity of our being up and doing, and to show the importance of Nanking as a center.

Selections from Reports.

ABOUT EDUCATION.

"The longer I am engaged in educational work among the Chinese the more I become convinced that their ethnic, moral, physical and religious cult has so hopelessly lapsed that no satisfactory results can be obtained by attempting to graft Christianity upon the indigenous elements. An effort to do so would only communicate to them the externals of our civilization, but not its soul; and yet it is just what these ethnic nations are seeking after. They do not want Christianity, but they do want all the advantages of Christian civilization. If we did not inquire into their social, religious, moral and private relation and duties and simply imparted instruction in a given course of study all classes who are able would be glad to come to us even if we charged a very high tuition."

C. F. KUPFER, Ph. D.
President Wm. Nast College.

ALSO ABOUT EDUCATION.

"Yang-chow is rightly styled a city *Kung Kwans*, for it abounds in homes of official families, some member of which holds office in near or distant parts of the empire. Young

men from some of these homes frequently attend our preaching services. Naturally there is a demand for educational work and frequently requests have come to me during the year to teach classes in English, Arithmetic, &c. These requests have been accompanied with offers to pay tuition. In one instance some some young men proposed that a number of them (about twenty) would join the church and attend regular weekly services, if I would teach English one hour per day in a school they were planning to open. In reply I proposed to teach a Bible class in English to such as were sufficiently advanced in English to enter such a class, no tuition to be charged and the matter of joining the church to be a separate consideration. The offer was not accepted.

W. C. LONGDEN.
P. E. Chinkiang District.

Notes and Clippings.

The next conference will be held at Chinkiang.

The total receipts of Nanking University for tuition for 1903 amount to $ 2,583.00.

Bro. J. F. Wilson and wife will leave Kiukiang early in March for the South Japan Conference, which meets in Nagasaki, March 16th. Bro. Wilson is to receive Deacon's and Elder's orders under the missionary rule, in order to fill his appointment this year as Presiding Elder of the Central Kiangsi District.

The attendance of William Nast College during 1903 was 117.

Philander Smith Hospital registered 17,816 visits during the last year.

Dr. Hart of Wuhu General Hospital reports 438 surgical operations during 1903.

John R. Trindle, whose contract with the Lord Li family expires during the summer and who will then be able to fill his appointment at Chinkiang, was recommended to the South Japan Conference for admission on trial.

William Nast College Commencement Exercises.

The College closed a prosperous year on Friday, February 5th, 1904. Five young men had completed the course of study. The exercises opened at 7 P.M. in William Nast College Chapel. Many of the friends and relatives had gathered together and the chapel was well filled. Essays were read by the Graduating Class on the following subjects:

Harmony in Science and Religion, ... by Ling Chi-chih.

Conflict of Christianity with Heathenism during the first Three Hundred years, . . by Chang Ting-kwoh.

Comparison of Religions, ... by Hu Sheo-sen.

The Reformation, ... by Mei Chin-yü.

Importance of Physical Education, ... by Yü Chuan-huei.

In addition to this, numerous experiments in Physics and Chemistry were performed and careful explanation given of a number of natural phenomena.

In closing Dr. C. F. Kupfer impressed upon their minds the fact that real practical life is now about to begin for them. The time spent in school must be considered as a

preparation for that which is to come. He exhorted them to be noble in their conflict and true in their strife, ever looking up to and trusting in Jesus, our ideal and Savior; for in so doing life becomes eminently successful and exceedingly useful.

May God's blessing attend them in going out into practical life!

Ling Chi-chih is going on the Central Kiangsi District with Bro J. F. Wilson. Hu Sheo-sen, Chang Ting-kwok and Mei Chin-yu will remain in Kiukiang. Mr. Hu will take a position as teacher in his Alma Mater. Mr. Chang and Mr. Mei will be engaged in street chapel work under the direction of Pastor C. P. Hu and the Missionary of the Kiukiang District. Mr. Yü has accepted a position as teacher in a school in Ch'ang-sha.

F. G. H.

The Investigation Committee.

Charges more or less formal or informal, recognized or nondescript, were presented against three native elders, and three full days were spent in the investigations. The committee was happy to be able to bring in a unanimous report such as to pass the characters of these brethren.

We are heartily glad that all the discussions and contentions, and sufferings of several members of the Mission, during the recent few years, have not been in vain. The thought of this Mission toward all yamen business, and everything that flavors of preachers dealing with civil or secular affairs, has crystallized into definite shape, and is now sufficiently unanimous and pronounced that all the native brethren well understand it.

We are willing to let the dead past (ante bellum) bury its dead—would that it might sink into oblivion, and take every true man at his present footing and facing, and henceforth for the sake of Christ and human souls "shun every apearance of evil." If we mistake not, some sentences in the committee's report will become historical in this Mission as voicing the conviction of the Mission, and fixing principles of future action.

The report unequivocally condemned both the matter and the manner of indiscriminately circulating evil reports against preachers, (to do which the Chinese are too prone); suggested a new point of departure; showed up the accusers in something like their true light; and gave the promoters of such matters a warning which they will do well to heed without delay.

E. J.

A Perilous Accident.

A day or two after the close of the Annual Meeting, Kiang Ming-chi and Hu Chi-ping, two native elders, and of our best stock, were crossing the river in a sampan on their way attending to a matter entrusted to them by the Mission, when suddenly the boat was overturned and all hands thrown into the water.

Several persons were drowned, but our two preachers were saved. When picked up by the rescuing boat Mr. Hu was almost unconscious. They were brought back to Kiukiang, and a few days of nursing set them right again. "*Saved for service.*"

Wedding Bells.

On February 4th, in the Sleeper Memorial Chapel at Nanking, Rev. Wilbur F. Wilson, of this Mission, and Miss Mary F. Rowley of the W. F. M. S., were united in marriage. Our new Superintendent, Rev. Spencer Lewis, officiated. Dr. Beebe gave the bride away, and Mr. J. C. Ferguson, brother-in-law of the bridegroom, was best man.

U. S. Consul Martin was present, together with practically the entire Missionary force of Nanking, and several members of the Customs' and commercial communities. After the ceremony a reception was given in the Adeline Smith Home of the W. F. M. S. Both the chapel and the home were beautifully and artistically decorated.

Great satisfaction is felt through the entire Mission with the "eternal fitness" of this match; and it is an open secret that it was generally hoped for long before there were any very encouraging signs of its realization. We all feel not only to congratulate the happy couple, but ourselves also. We pray that God's richest blessings may be upon their united life, and that these blessings may include many years of effective service with us.

After a brief honeymoon in Shanghai, Brother and Sister Wilson will return to their work in Nanking University for opening the Spring semester after the Chinese New Year.

Dawning of the Morning.

Thought on the evangelization of China cannot go far before it becomes clear that the bulk of the work must be done by native agencies. The burden of prayer of Missionaries is that the Lord will raise up an ever-increasing and more efficient force of native preachers. When the Chinese themselves are filled with the love of Christ and fired with love for souls, then and not till then may we expect truly great and wide-spread effective evangelism in China. The prospects from our theological school are now brighter than ever before, and the morning seems to be dawning. Some twelve or more of the brightest and strongest young men of the Nanking University are offering themselves for the ministry, and are at work in the Theol. Dep't in preparation therefor. The Chinese (like many persons at home) need to feel that a call to preach the gospel means a call to the toil, self-denial, discipline, and devotion necessary for the best work.

With this end in view Brother Rowe has been made Dean of the Theol. School and Presiding Elder of the Nanking District. All the evangelistic work in the city and suburbs, except St. Luke's chapel, will be under his immediate direction with the students. The possibilities of the work seem boundless, and will tax all the resources of one's nature; while its responsibilities are enough to make one very humble and prayerful. Great hopes for our Mission gather around and centre in Nanking, and there is much need of sympathetic prayer and hearty coöperation that these hopes may be realized.

E. J.

Notes.

We welcome Rev. and Mrs. Spencer Lewis and Mrs. Hall, from West China, to fellowship and coöperation with us in this field.

Our hearty greetings also are extended to the new recruits of the W. F. M. S. Miss Crane goes into the work at Nanking, and Miss Crook, at Chinkiang.

As Brother Longden was about to go home for a few months leave of absence to bring his family back, Brother Lewis began his itinerary with a visit to Chinkiang where he stayed over Sunday. On Monday he and Brother James went to Yangchow where Brother Lewis took over the work from Brother Longden.

In her appointment as peripatetic musical director Miss White's musical muse has brought her back to Chinkiang again, much to the satisfaction of those who for a long time have been wooing that muse to return.

This session of the Central China Conference closed Bishop Moore's quadrennium of episcopal supervision in China. We have never, indeed, accepted the notion of infallibility in any man; but Bishop Moore, by his whole-souled devotion, hearty fraternalism, and universal sympathies, has endeared himself to us. Whatever one's other qualifications without these he will never be a success as a Bishop in China. Leaving us he hastens to Corea, thence to the two Japan Conferences, and the formation of a Japanese Central Conference, leaving that land only in time to reach Los Angeles for the General Conference.

Reference to the appointments will show that several changes have been made. Rowe moves from Wuhu to Nanking; Maclean, from Nanchang to Wuhu; James, from Chinkiang to Nanchang; Ts'ü Tsing Chen, from Nauchang to Chinkiang; J. F. Wilson, from Kiukiang to Nanchang.

BISHOP MOORE.

Since the preceeding pages were in type tidings have come from Bishop Moore in Corea. He left Shanghai by the Russian Railway steamer "Sungari" and reached Chemulpo the day before the first hostilities of the Japanese-Russian war began. The telegraphic news of the destruction of the s.s. "Sungari" by the Japanese filled our hearts with anxiety and an "extra" was issued by the Shanghai Daily to the effect that Bishop Moore was on the "Sungari" when she was destroyed. Communication with Corea was so interrupted that a cable message to Seoul enquiring as to the Bishop's welfare did not bring a reply for more than a week. That same evening Mrs. Moore received a letter from the Bishop saying he had landed safely on Monday morning and was privileged to see the arrival of the Japanese fleet and the destruction of two Russian cruisers and the merchant vessel "Sungari" in Chemulpo harbor the following day.

We praise the Lord for this another instance of a valued worker being "saved for service." Bishop Moore writes that if it is necessary he will return to Corea after his Conferences in Japan and not to U.S.A. before the General Conference.

W. H. L.

G. T. JONES & Co.,

Wholesale and Retail Grocers, Dealers in all kinds of General Merchandise.

Why not deal with a house that will sell you your family supplies, in any quantity at wholesale prices? We make a specialty of handling Foreign trade, and can supply you with anything you need. We have a general department store, and will fill your orders for everything. We know how to pack goods and will give you the Best Service. As to our reliability, we refer you to WELLS FARGO & CO'S. BANK. Give us a Trial Order. Send for our 40 page Catalogue free.

G. T. JONES & Co.,
2 and 4 California St.,
"An up-to-date Mail Order House." *San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A.*

THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

SHANGHAI

is now prepared to execute all kinds of

Book and Job Printing

promptly, in good style and at reasonable prices.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(Japan Mail Steamship Co.)

Capital Yen 22,000,000. Fleet 247,588 tons.

Under mail contract with the Imperial Japanese Government.

European Line.

Regular fortnightly Service between Japan, London and Antwerp, calling at Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Port Said, and Marseilles.

American Line.

Regular fortnightly Service between Hongkong and Seattle, calling at Shanghai, Moji, Kobe, Yokohama, and Victoria, B.C., in connection with the Great Northern Railway.

Australian Line.

Regular 4-weekly Service between Japan and Australia, calling at Hongkong and Manila.

Yokohama—Shanghai Line.

Regular weekly Service between Yokohama and Shanghai, calling at Kobe, Moji, and Nagasaki.

Regular steamers of this Company also run between Japan ports, China and Bombay.

For freight, passage, and other information apply to

The Manager,
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
No. 22, The Bund, Shanghai.